

To Minister Margot James MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

6th September 2017

Dear Minister,

Scientific forgeries, world-wide threat equal to terrorism, and the need for a new compliance partner for Complementary Medicine advertising.

All supposedly negative homeopathic meta-analyses on which opponents of homeopathy have relied are scientific forgeries¹. *Professor Robert Hahn, Head of Research, Södertälje Hospital, Sweden*

'The [bogus anti-homeopathy] propaganda is coming from the West..... Big pharma companies in the West want a monopolistic market². *Dr R.K. Manchanda, director general of a new committee set up by the Indian government to counter false anti-homeopathy disinformation.*

'ASA's writing does not even begin to approach a professional standard³. *Professor Peter Matthiessen and Dr Gudrun Bornhöft*

We learn through FOIs that you are shortly meeting with ASA Ltd, apparently to discuss funding for the prosecution of homeopaths claiming to treat disease (or is this meeting perhaps a more general policy discussion?) Either way, we ask you to study carefully beforehand the attached documents, and after learning that a vicious worldwide anti-homeopathy campaign has now largely failed, professors of medicine, doctors and other highly qualified healthcare professionals in the millions all using or advocating homeopathy as a frontline treatment of specific diseases, we trust that you will make clear to ASA Ltd that your government deals in truth, not lies.

Switzerland is the latest of many countries to place homeopathy on a constitutional equal position with pharmaceutical medicine, after its commissioned Health Technology Assessment found homeopathy to be **safe, effective and cost-effective**. Homeopathy is massively used in many other European countries: research in France¹ has shown doctors who integrate homeopathy into their practices do so at no lowering of clinical outcome, but with a **20% decrease in overall cost**. Right there is widely perceived to be the true motivation of those still claiming that only pharmaceutical products can produce clinical effects, something ASA has been told any number of times is, in the words of Professor Robert Hahn, 'lies'.

India, another country where homeopathy is constitutionally equal with pharmaceuticals, is sufficiently distraught to have set up a new government department to counter 'Homeopathy disinformation coming from the West'. The UK being well at the top of that tree, is that not just so embarrassing for your government that this country should be internationally considered so corrupt?

But it is worse than just corruption. Antimicrobial resistance is increasing all the time, and with pharmaceutical medicine evidently powerless against it, the cost to the economy is already massive, and millions are predicted to die. Homeopathy is irrefutably able to reduce antibiotic usage. It is therefore horrifying that this scam should still be allowed to continue in this country, and that ASA Ltd should be this scam's willing tool.

Instead of awarding funds to ASA Ltd., it would seem to us better to provide funding instead to the Police and/or the Fraud Squad to investigate and prosecute as they see fit worldwide allegations of corrupt anti-homeopathy disinformation which, according to their findings, may include jointly and severally key representatives of ASA Ltd. as well as of the House of Commons Science & Technology Committee of 2010 which found homeopathy to be a mere 'placebo' after omitting all evidence to the contrary (only three MPs voted in favour of this report, two of whom had known links to the pharmaceutical industry).

Rather than retain ASA as a compliance partner in this area, are you aware of, and are you engaged with, the GRCCT, who would appear to meet most adequately the requirements of a new compliance partner for Complementary and Alternative medicine, with the undoubted benefit (in marked contrast with ASA Ltd) of having years of knowledge and experience in the subject matter?

The 'bend in the knee' has been reached - the worldwide growth of, and ever-expanding data basis of positive research for, homeopathy on the one hand; the exposure of pharmaceutical fraud on the other. Professor Peter Gøtzscheⁱⁱ not only likens the Pharmaceutical industry to the Mafia in its endemic corruption, but says that even Government Ministers are often bribed. We hope very much that could not happen in your party, but intimidation, subtle or otherwise, is certainly conceivable. We hope you will report without any hesitation to the Police any such behaviour you might yourself encounter.

This letter concerns homeopathy, not politics. But the threat from ever growing antimicrobial resistance is said to be equal to that of terrorism. In the face of ever-increasing homeopathy success around the world, any government that allows anti-homeopathy disinformation to continue would surely deserve, indeed need, to stay in opposition for at least a generation.

Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have, or clarification you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Burnett,
(and others redacted)

CC The Minister of State for Health, Mr Jeremy Hunt.

Attachments:

- Complaint to Trading Standards and the CMA concerning ASA Ltd.
- Letters of protest to ASA from the authors of the Swiss HTA report on homeopathy
- Professor Robert Hahn's analysis that 'All supposedly negative homeopathic meta-analyses are scientific forgeries'.
- Letter to Lord Harris, 4th September 2017

ⁱ Economic impact of homeopathic practice in general medicine in France; Aurélie Colas, Karine Danno, Cynthia Tabar, Jenifer Ehreth and Gérard Duru. *Health Economics Review* (2015) 5:18 DOI 10.1186/s13561-015-0055-5. Available online at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> > NCBI > Literature > PubMed Central (PMC)

ⁱⁱ Author of *Deadly medicines and organized crime*. Danish physician, medical researcher and co-founder of the influential Cochrane Institute.